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February 12, 1979

PLANS FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS IN THE YUKON
ON THE ALASKA HIGHWAY GAS PIPELINE

BY THE

FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REVIEW OFFICE
AND THE NORTHERN PIPELINE AGENCY

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Alaska Highway Pipeline
Agency

WHITEHORSE--The Northern Pipeline Agency (NPA) and the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office (FEARO) today released details on combined public hearings on the Yukon section of the Alaska Highway gas pipeline.

Scheduled to begin on March 19, 1979, the hearings will be conducted under the co-chairmanship of Mr. Ken McKinnon of Whitehorse and Mr. F.G. Hurtubise, Executive Chairman of FEARO. Public hearings will be held in communities along the proposed pipeline route and in two off-route communities, Faro and Dawson City.

Membership of the hearings panel will include representatives of the NPA, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Yukon Territorial Government, and the federal Environmental Assessment Panel (EAP). Mr. McKinnon a Yukoner and former member of the Executive Committee of the Yukon Territorial Government, has been named as the Northern Pipeline Agency's representative on the public hearings panel. Mr. Hurtubise will head the EAP component of the hearings panel.

Such representation on the Yukon public hearings panel provides a single focus for widespread public review of the Environmental Impact Statement prepared by Foothills Pipe Lines (South Yukon) Ltd., of the proposed socio-economic and environmental terms and conditions drafted by the NPA, and any other pipeline related matters pertaining to the Yukon segment of the Alaska Highway gas pipeline. Hearings on these aspects of the pipeline project have been co-ordinated in response to requests of Yukon residents.

A revised draft of environmental terms and conditions to apply specifically to the project in the Yukon will be made available for public consideration within a few days. The socio-economic terms and conditions were released in October, 1978, and the Environmental Impact Statement was published in January of this year.

At the conclusion of the hearings, the EAP component of the Yukon public hearings panel will submit a report on the public review of the Environmental Impact Statement and of their assessment of potential environmental impacts of the project to the federal Minister of Environment, the Honourable Len Marchand. The Minister will in turn recommend any measures he considers necessary to offset or minimize such impacts.

The Northern Pipeline Agency will take into account public views expressed at the hearings and the recommendations of the Minister of the Environment in framing the final socio-economic and environmental terms and conditions to be proposed for adoption by the Governor in Council. Upon adoption, Foothills Pipe Lines (South Yukon) Ltd., will be required to comply with these detailed terms and conditions in undertaking construction of the pipeline in the Yukon.

Spokesmen for the NPA and FEARO stressed the importance of public participation and input to ensure the Yukon public hearings panel is made fully aware of potential local impacts of the pipeline project.

All public hearings will be transcribed and copies of the proceedings and of all written submissions will be available for public review.

Following is the tentative schedule for the Yukon community hearings:

March 19 - 20	Whitehorse
March 21 - 22	Faro
March 26	Beaver Creek
March 27	Destruction Bay
March 28	Burwash Landing
March 29 - 30	Haines Junction
April 2	Watson Lake
April 3	Upper Liard (Swift River)
April 4 - 5	Teslin
April 10	Dawson City
EASTER BREAK	
April 24 - 27	Whitehorse

Individuals or groups wishing to participate personally in the hearings are being requested to contact representatives of the Northern Pipeline Agency or of the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office.

Biographies attached

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Biographies attached

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BIOGRAPHY

J.K. (Ken) McKinnon

Mr. McKinnon was born and educated in Winnipeg, Manitoba and is a political science graduate of the University of Manitoba. He is a recipient of the Governor General's Centennial Medal and the Queen's Jubilee Medal.

He has lived and worked in the Yukon for more than twenty years in various capacities, including Manager of Northern Television Ltd. (WHTV) and President of the First Arctic Winter Games Corporation.

A former member of the Executive Committee of the Yukon Territorial Government, Mr. McKinnon was first elected to the Yukon Legislative Assembly in 1961. He was re-elected to four terms in office. From 1962 to 1964 he was a member of the Financial Advisory Committee of the Yukon Territorial Government, and was appointed Chairman of that Committee from 1968 to 1970. In 1974, he was appointed Minister of Local Government and from 1976 to 1978 also served as Minister of Highways and Public Works with Portfolio Responsibilities for the Pipeline Co-ordinator's Office.

His wife Judy was born in Aishihik, Yukon and they have a son Craig and a daughter Alexia.

Biography

F.G. Hurtubise

Mr. Hurtubise was born in Ottawa and graduated in Chemistry from Carleton University in 1951. He later furthered his studies in Chemistry and Physics at several Canadian and American Universities. He is a fellow of the Chemical Institute of Canada and member of several other professional and scientific associations. He also holds a Diploma in Industrial Administration from the University of Geneva.

On graduation, he joined Canadian International Paper Research Limited and remained until 1971, at which time he was Manager of the Process Development Division. He then entered the Environmental Protection Service of the newly formed Department of the Environment and occupied various positions prior to his appointment as Director General, Environmental Conservation Directorate in 1975.

In 1976, Mr. Hurtubise was appointed Executive Chairman of the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office. Mr. Hurtubise served as the Chairman of Shabwak Project Environmental Assessment Panel which held public hearings in Whitehorse and in the communities along the highway route in March, 1978.

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Federal Environmental Review Office
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